



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

JL

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/668,475	09/22/2003	Roland E. Dolle	VPISW006 DIV	2933
1473	7590	11/12/2004	EXAMINER	
FISH & NEAVE LLP 1251 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS 50TH FLOOR NEW YORK, NY 10020-1105			MCKENZIE, THOMAS C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1624	

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/668,475	DOLLE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thomas McKenzie, Ph.D.	1624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2004.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4, 9, 14 and 19-22 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 9 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4, 14 and 19-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some *
 - c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/25/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to amendments filed on 9/13/04. Applicant has amended claims 1, 9, and 14. Applicant has canceled no claims. Claims 19-22 are new. Claims 1-4, 9, and 14 were previously rejected. Claims 1-4 are compound claims. Claims 9, 19, and 20 are composition claims. Claims 14, 21, and 22 are method of using claims. This is the first action on the merits. The application concerns some Pyridazinecarboxamide and Ester compounds, compositions, and uses thereof. Because the Examiner pointed to the wrong portion of the text of Linz ('233) for the anticipatory compound, this action is made non-final.

Response to Amendment

2. Applicants' new title overcomes the objection made in point #2 of the previous officer action. Applicants' limitation of R₄ to be substituted phenyl overcomes the art rejection over Wermuth (J. Med. Chem.) made in point #3. Applicants' new proviso in the last two lines of claim 1 overcomes the art rejection over Lesher ('194) made in point #5. Applicants' species provide the required support for this negative proviso. Applicants' new definition of "aromatic ether" in lines 8-11 of claim 1 overcomes the art rejection over Heinisch (Archiv der Pharmazie) made in point #6. However, that new definition is new matter as discussed below. Applicants' terminal disclaimer over US Patent 6,624,166 overcomes the double patenting rejection made in point #7.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-4 and 19-22 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The definition of "aromatic ether" in lines 8-11 of claim 1 is not found *in haec verba* in the specification.

Applicants look to pages 3-5 for support for this amendment. The closest definition, which the Examiner can find, is of "aryl" in line 4, page 5. However, "aryl" is hardly the same as "aromatic".

4. Claim 21 is newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make the invention. This claim would read on treating every disease known to mankind.

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 2 is newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 recites the limitation "said aryl is phenyl" in lines 1 and 2. There is no antecedent basis for this limitation in the parent claim 1, which limits R₄ to be a substituted phenyl. The Examiner suggests deleting the word "phenyl" from claim 2.

6. Claims 21 and 22 are newly rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 21 recites the limitation "a pharmaceutical composition comprising the compounds of claims 1-4" in lines 2 and 3. There is no antecedent basis for this limitation in the parent claims 1-4, which are compound not composition claims. Was dependence upon claim 19 intended?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

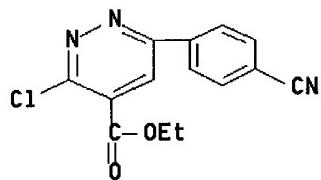
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who

has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1 and 2 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Linz ('233). There is one compound which fits formula (I) with R₁ = chlorine, R² = OH, R₃ = R₅ = hydrogen, and R₄ = the substituted aryl group 4-cyanophenyl. The compound is found in the reference in lines 35-41, column 10 and has registry number 150594-29-9.



Double Patenting

8. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969). A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used

to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b). Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claim 14 remains rejected and claims 21 and 22 are newly rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-5 of U.S. Patent No. 6,121,266. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the formula in claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,121,266 is restricted to R₁ = halogen alone. This is a species/genus situation. According to the MPEP §806.04(i) "Generic Claims Presented for First Time After Issue of Species. The Office no longer follows the practice of prohibiting the allowance of generic claims that are presented for the first time after the issuance of a copending application claiming plural species. Instead, the Office may reject the generic claims on the grounds of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicant may overcome such a rejection by filing a terminal disclaimer. See *In re Braithwaite*, 379 F.2d 594, 154 USPQ 29."

Applicants made no remarks concerning this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim 9 is allowed.

Conclusion

10. Information regarding the status of an application should be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at (866) 217-9197 (toll-free). Please direct general inquiries to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

11. Please direct any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner to Thomas C McKenzie, Ph. D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-0670. The FAX number for amendments is (703) 872-9306. The PTO presently encourages all applicants to communicate by FAX. The Examiner is available from 9:00am to 5:30pm, Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, please contact James O. Wilson, acting SPE of Art Unit 1624, at (571)-272-0661.



Thomas C. McKenzie, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1624
(571) 272-0670